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possessed of the mirror eye which in every direction could look straightway into every corner of the third dimension. This seems incredible, but it cannot be denied that tridimensional space lies open to an inspection from the domain of the fourth dimension, just as every point of a Euclidean plane is open to inspection from above to tridimensional vision. Of course we may demur (as we actually do) to believing in the reality of a space of four dimensions, but that being granted, the inferences can not be doubted. EDITOR.

PROF. LAWRENCE H. MILLS OF OXFORD.

Among those appointed by the Hebdomadal Council of Oxford to represent the University at the coming Congress of Orientalists at Copenhagen the veteran Professor Mills is prominent. He has lately reached his seventy-first birthday, and, though he has long been in a painful condition from various complications of disease, his general health is fairly good, and his professional activities are very extensive. He has now strong hopes of living to complete his various works. *The Dictionary of the Gāthic Language of the Zend Avesta* is approaching its three hundredth page, bringing up the Gāthas to about 977 pages in all. The next section will soon be delivered to purchasers. He will also be shortly delivering the first chapter of the Yasna in the four texts: Avesta, Pahlavi, Sanskrit and Persian, with translations of the first three as in the Gāthas (Brockhaus), but he is forced to abandon the favored synoptical form of that earlier book on account of the Pahlavi text which is given both in the original character from the *Muséon* of Louvain, Belgium, with all the variants of all the manuscripts, also in the original character, as well as in the transcription of it from the *Zeitschrift* of the German Oriental Society, with the translation from the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*. On account of this twofold edition of the Pahlavi this one chapter will occupy at least one hundred pages in large form. Mr. Mills has edited in all some fifty odd chapters of the Yasna, now deciphered with the collation of all of the manuscripts, but, save in the Gāthas and in Yasna, the first variants are not as yet fully published, though they are in manuscript. About thirty-two of these chapters have appeared in the *Zeitschrift* of the German Oriental Society, with translations of some thirty-four in the *Journal of R. A. S.*, London.

This work being the crux of Avesta philology, requires reconstructions of the Avesta texts, as of their translations at every step. No lexicography is to be compared with it in difficulty, for

it includes lexicography, except such lexicography as includes it. Mr. Mills has published two chapters of the Gāthas in their Sanskrit equivalents as a mere side-work, the Zend being practically Sanskrit. One of these appeared in Roth's *Festgruss*, 1894, and one in the *Actes* of the International Congress in Paris in 1897. Other portions of these translations into Sanskrit will be offered at the forthcoming Congress at Copenhagen.

The Avesta contains the sister religion to that of Exilic Israel, being also a reformed section of what was the original of the Vedic religion, in a language nearer to Sanskrit than Greek is to Greek. Oldenberg, referring to the translation in Roth's *Festgruss*, says in *Vedic Religion*, p. 27: "Dass eine solche Uebertragung oft nicht allein correcte vedische Worte und Sätze ergeben würde, sondern Verse, aus denen die Seele vedischer Dichtkunst zu sprechen scheint."

Oxford has lately made her most distinguished acquisition in the person of the Chancellor, Lord Kurzon of Kedleston, the most prominent figure now present in the British Empire, and what is equally gratifying, she has acquired for this position an eminent scholar and important writer upon Persia past and present.

His Lordship favored Oxford with a short residence in the Autumn (not, as we grieve to say, accompanied by that endeared lady now mourned by two continents). Among other experienced guests he honored the aged Professor Mills, who assisted by an attendant, greatly appreciated the attention.

Another pleasant incident has met the Professor in the literary application of a distinguished young Italian lawyer of Turin, Italy, apparently also connected officially with its Chamber of Commerce. Entirely without any previous knowledge of this very able translator, Professor Mills received a most courteous communication, asking for permission to translate some of his works into Italian. Mr. Mills, as need hardly be said, cordially met this request; and three pieces, two of them lectures delivered in Oxford, are now in type and will soon be issued. Not without interest was also a communication from an able professor in Chile urgently requesting information as to Professor Mills's works, and the subject in general.

Professor Mills has just published an article in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* and another one will soon be forthcoming in *Z. D. M. G.* Meanwhile others are preparing, and the text editions and Gāthic dictionary are making progress,—and this at the author's advanced age of seventy-one.